

# MONTANA BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Board of Public Education was created by the Montana Constitution of 1972 to exercise general supervision over the elementary and secondary schools of the state. The Board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate to staggered seven-year terms. By statute the Governor must appoint members to the Board so that not more than four may be from one of the two commission districts and not more than four may be affiliated with the same political party. The Governor, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Commissioner of Higher Education are ex-officio, non-voting members of the Board. In 1978 the Board added a student representative who is elected by the executive committee of the Montana Association of Student Councils to a one-year term. The Board maintains offices in Helena with a staff of four people including the executive secretary.

## Board of Public Education Members Term Expires

Updated 1/5/2009

2/1/14	Patty Myers Chairperson <a href="mailto:pmyersbpe@bresnan.net">pmyersbpe@bresnan.net</a> <a href="mailto:patty_myers@gfps.k12.mt.us">patty_myers@gfps.k12.mt.us</a> Elementary Teacher	369 Carol Drive Great Falls, MT 59405	H 761-0874 W 268-6725 F 761-0874 C 899-0874
2/1/13	Angela McLean Vice Chairperson <a href="mailto:amclean89@hotmail.com">amclean89@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:mcleana@sd10.org">mcleana@sd10.org</a> High School Teacher	Anaconda High School 515 Main PO Box 546 Anaconda, MT 59711	W 563-5269 F 563-5260 C 560-4498
2/1/09	Dr. Kirk Miller <a href="mailto:kirk.miller@bsd7.org">kirk.miller@bsd7.org</a> Superintendent	Bozeman Public Schools 404 West Main PO Box 520 Bozeman, MT 59715-0520	H 580-9226 W 522-6001 F 522-6065 C 581-1037
2/1/10	Storrs Bishop <a href="mailto:sbwillow@3rivers.net">sbwillow@3rivers.net</a> Lay Person	PO Box 667 Ennis, MT 59729	H 682-4641 F 682-5172
2/1/11	Cal Gilbert <a href="mailto:cal_gilbert@gfps.k12.mt.us">cal_gilbert@gfps.k12.mt.us</a> Principal	610 20 <sup>th</sup> St. South Great Falls, MT 59405	H 771-1127 W 268-6845 C 868-1772
2/1/15	Bernard Olson <a href="mailto:bernard003@centurytel.net">bernard003@centurytel.net</a> Lay Person	161 Lakeside Blvd Lakeside, MT 59922	H 844-3282 C 250-3631
2/1/12	Sharon Carroll <a href="mailto:scarroll@midrivers.com">scarroll@midrivers.com</a> High School Teacher	PO Box 463 Ekalaka, MT 59324	H 775-6642 W 775-8767 F 775-8766 C 975-6642

## Student Representative

6/30/09	Katie Wood <a href="mailto:sport_fanatic_kw@hotmail.com">sport_fanatic_kw@hotmail.com</a>	1295 Saddleback Ln Laurel, MT 59044-3628	H 628-4075 S 628-7911
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## EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Governor Brian Schweitzer	Room 204, State Capitol PO Box 200801 Helena, MT 59620-0801	W 444-3311 F 444-5529
Denise Juneau State Superintendent Office of Public Instruction	1227 11 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor PO Box 202501 Helena, MT 59620-2501	W 444-5658 F 444-9299
Sheila Stearns Commissioner of Higher Education	PO Box 203201 Helena, MT 59620-3201	W 444-6570 F 444-1469

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## STAFF

Steve Meloy Executive Secretary <a href="mailto:smeloy@mt.gov">smeloy@mt.gov</a>	46 N. Last Chance Gulch PO Box 200601 Helena, MT 59620-0601	W 444-6576 F 444-0847
Steve Gettel, Superintendent Montana School for the Deaf and Blind <a href="mailto:sgettel@msdb.mt.gov">sgettel@msdb.mt.gov</a>	3911 Central Avenue Great Falls, MT 59401	1-800-882-6732 F 771-6164

The Board is vested with constitutional rule-making authority which is self-executing and independent from any power that is delegated to the Board by the Legislature. The Board of Public Education combines with the Board of Regents two times a year to form the Board of Education with responsibilities for long-range planning of the state's educational system.

In addition to the constitutional mandate to exercise general supervision of the schools, the Board is assigned specific responsibilities by the Montana Legislature. A partial list of duties requires the Board to:

- adopt standards of accreditation for Montana schools and establish the accreditation status of each school;
- effect a system of teacher certification, including the accreditation of the teacher and administrator training programs;
- consider the suspension or revocation of teacher certificates and hear appeals from the denial of teacher certificates;
- administer and order the distribution of state equalization aid;
- adopt policies for the special education of handicapped and gifted and talented students; and
- act as the governing agency for the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind.

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The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is attached to the Board of Public Education for administrative purposes. The head of OPI is the elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction. To illustrate, the Board of Public Education orders the distribution of the state BASE aid to schools and the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall distribute the BASE aid. The elected Superintendent of Public Instruction makes accreditation recommendations to the Board of Public Education as part of his/her general supervision responsibilities of K-12 schools.

Local School District Boards of Trustees were created by Article X Section 8 of the Montana Constitution and are vested with the powers of local supervision of schools in their respective school districts. In Montana there currently exist 432 separate school districts consisting of 830 schools and a student population of 143,405 K-12 students. The local school boards govern their individual districts within the confines of the Board of Public Education's chapters of accreditation standards.

The Board of Public Education values its proactive association with the state legislature in its current involvement with the Education and Local Government Interim Committee. Board members are represented on the K-12 Subcommittee. The Board has actively been involved in the past three interim studies regarding school funding. It was a Board position paper on a holistic approach to school governance and funding which caused the drafting of HB 736 of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session establishing the School Renewal Commission. This interim commission proposed changes and new provisions regarding several components of K-12 public education in Montana including revenue available, school district governance, methods of funding, and roles of state and federal governments. It was recommendation #10 of this commission which recommended the benefits of expanding kindergarten services to full-time as a way to improve student learning and achievement and the eventual improvement of graduation rates in Montana.

## **CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) was established by the Montana Legislature in 1987. Its members are appointed by the Board of Public Education. Members serve three year terms.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council is to study and to make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on certification issues concerning teachers, administrators and specialists; professional standards and ethical conduct; the status and efficacy of approved teacher education programs in Montana; and policies related to the denial, suspension, and revocation of educator certification and the appeals process.

## **MACIE**

There is the Montana Advisory Council for Indian Education (MACIE) to advise the Board and the Superintendent of Public Instruction on matters related to Indian education. The purpose of the Council is to:

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*"...provide for more effective and meaningful participation by Indian people in planning, implementation, and administration of relevant educational services and programs under the authority of local school boards."*

The council is composed of representatives of the eleven tribal groups in Montana and other groups working in the interest of Indian people.

## CONTACT US

### Board of Public Education Staff

- Steve Meloy – Executive Secretary W 444-6576  
[smeloy@mt.gov](mailto:smeloy@mt.gov)
- Carol Will – BPE Administrative Assistant W 444-0302  
[cwill@mt.gov](mailto:cwill@mt.gov) F 444-0847

### Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council Staff

- Pete Donovan – Administrative Officer W 444-0301  
[pdonovan@mt.gov](mailto:pdonovan@mt.gov)
- Anneliese Warhank – CSPAC Administrative Assistant W 444-6576  
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